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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

MINISTRY FOR STATE SECURITY SET UP

SAYS VON PAULUS TO BE MINISTER OF SECURITY -- Dagens Nyheter, No 26, 28 Jan 50

Dagens Nyheter's Berlin correspondent has learned from a very reliable source that former Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus, the defender of Stalin-grad, is slated to become the chief of the Ministry of Security which will be set up in the East German Republic. Von Paulus is now living in Moscow, but he is expected to return to Germany in the near future accompanied by Lothar Bolz, leader of the National Democratic Party, which was established on Russian initiative.

Ever since von Paulus, in August of 1944, joined the so-called League of German Officers in Moscow, there has been speculation in Germany as to the role the former field marshal would play after the war. Time after time his arrival in Germany has been forecast, but it has never materialized. At one time it was predicted that von Paulus would assume the supreme command over the people's police-- the present East German army -- but this, too, failed to be realized.

On 27 January, the government officials of East Berlin would not say who the intended chief is. In answer to a question, however, Fritz Lange, the chief of the State Control Commission, said that the future Minister of Security is "a German who has always had Germany's best interests at heart, but who has made many mistakes in the past" -- a shoe which fits von Paulus very well from the Communist viewpoint.

One motivation for the new ministry was expressed by the East German Ministry of Information in its admission of the ever-increasing sabotage activity in Eastern Germany. The chief of the Criminal Police, Meyer, declared that in 1949 there were no less than 12,000 fires in Eastern Germany, and that people perished in most of these fires.

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Lange stated that one of the main functions of the new ministry will be the "debbureaucratization" of the East German Republic, and added, "A rifle, a gal-lows, or a hard-labor sentence can be a good or a bad thing. It depends on who is wielding the instrument."

The man who, directly under Walther Ulbricht, will wield this instrument of violence will, therefore, be the 60-year-old former field marshal, von Paulus. He occupied a leading post in the Committee for a Free Germany, in which, among others, he worked together with Walther Ulbricht, now the Deputy Minister-President of Eastern Germany. Now it appears that his schooling is complete, and he will soon return to Berlin to assume his new function of guarding the inner security of the East German state.

REPORT LAW PASSED -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, No 277, 9 Feb 50

It is reported from Berlin that East Germany has passed a law governing the formation of a Ministry for State Security.

Dr Steinhoff, Minister of the Interior, declared that the ministry had become a necessity because "we need the requisite authorities to prevent saboteurs and foreign agents from undermining our economic structure."

The responsible minister, who had not yet been appointed on the date of report, is to have unlimited powers.

ZAISSEK CHOSEN AS STATE SECURITY MINISTER -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, No 343, 352; 19, 20 Feb 50

The choice of Wilhelm Zaisser as Minister for State Security in Soviet Zone Germany is ascribed to Soviet intervention. There can be no doubt that he was chosen mainly because he is the trusted agent of Moscow.

Zaisser was born in the Ruhr district in 1893 and was an officer in the German Imperial Army. Following the Kapp "putsch" in the Ruhr in 1920, he was placed at the head of the secret military machine of West Germany's Communist Party. In 1927 he became involved in a political murder and had to flee to Moscow.

Zaisser earned recognition in connection with his work for the Comintern's intelligence (espionage) system and for Bureau IV of the Red Army. These organizations sent him to Manchukuo, China, and Asia Minor. Later he returned to Germany and was active in Soviet economic espionage in the Rhine and Ruhr districts. He barely evaded arrest in 1932 by escaping to the Soviet Union.

In 1936, Moscow sent Zaisser to Spain, where he participated in the Civil War as Commander of the First International Brigade under the well-known alias "General Gomez." Upon his return to Russia he fell into disfavor and was interned. After 2 years, old friends from Bureau IV succeeded in obtaining his release.

During World War II he became an instructor at "Antifa" schools in German prisoner-of-war camps in the Soviet Union. Former prisoners of war, as well as members of the former National Committee for Free Germany, report that from the humane point of view Zaisser did not behave badly.

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This professional revolutionist is considered a "genuine" idealist. Those who know him stress his slavish devotion to the Moscow regime.

In 1945 Zaisser returned to Germany, where he became president of the Leipzig Police. In June 1949 he was appointed Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs in Soviet Zone Germany.

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